



Marlene R Palmquist-Larsen

July 14, 1936 - July 5, 2015

Marlene Ramona Palmquist-Larsen of Ephrata, Washington left to join our Lord on July 5, 2015 at the age of 78. She was deeply loved by her family and friends.

Marlene was born in Rolette, North Dakota on July 14, 1936 to Margaret and Louis Lilleby. She spend the first six years of her life on the Lilleby farm outside of Dunseith, North Dakota. When she was entering third grade, the family moved into a new house that her dad and granddad had built in town. She remembered thinking they must be the richest people in town because they now had tap water, electric lights and flush toilets. At the age of 10, her parents sold their taxi business and moved out west to Palouse, Washington. It was in Palouse that she met her high school sweetheart, Ken Palmquist. When she was a senior in high school the family moved to Spokane where Marlene graduated from North Central High School. She and Ken were married just out of high school.

Ken was drafted into the Army. Mike, their first son, was born while he was serving in Korea. After Ken was discharged they lived in Spokane, where son Tim was born. In 1958, they decided to start their first business venture, a small office machine business in Omak, WA. At that time their daughter Jill was born.

They loved Omak, but the office machine business was not a boomer, so the family moved to Wenatchee. There Marlene went to work for Stone and Webster Engineers as a receptionist during the building of Rocky Reach Dam.

In 1963, they moved to Ephrata, WA to manage the Hi-U Motel for her parents. When it was sold, Ken and Marlene purchased Columbia Paint Store from Clink and Bert Bershinsky expanding the business to include wall coverings and glass. In addition, they loved to fix up old houses and either rent or resell them. After having the paint and glass store for fifteen years they sold the business to Larry and Casey White.

While deciding what next venture to take on, Marlene took a real estate class at Big Bend Community College and obtained her real estate license and later a broker's license. She started selling real estate with Les Parr Realty. When Ken got his real estate license, they purchased Century 21 Realty. Besides owning their own real estate company, they built mini warehouses and owned/managed rental properties. After Marlene and Ken were divorced, she moved to Yuma, AZ where she continued to work in real estate for the next ten years. She won many local, state and national awards for her company including receiving an award in Nashville on the Grand Ole Opry stage for being one of the top ten closing agents in the nation. During the years in Yuma, she always took the summers off to hurry back home to Ephrata. Marlene's happiest times were when her home was full of family and friends. She and Ken were re-married after ten years. They had ten wonderful years of traveling, cruising, camping with their RV friends, the Wannigans, and being snowbirds in Yuma before Ken passed away in 2004.

In 2005, Marlene attended an all class reunion in Palouse and met Arlan Larsen, a friend from her high school days. They had both lost their spouses the year before, something clicked and the rest was history. Marlene and Arlan were married at the Yuma Indian Mission in March 2006. They both loved traveling and visiting friends and family. They continued to winter in Yuma. Arlan loved Marlene. He took such excellent care of her through both the good and bad days of her battle with cancer.

Some of the activities that Marlene was involved in were: Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts, Jr. Women's Club, Christian Women's organizations both in Yuma and

Ephrata, WITI (Women Into Investments), TOPS club in Yuma and Ephrata, HCE (Home and Community Educators), St. Rose Church, YLI (Young Ladies Institute) and the Wannigan RV'ers. Basketball, softball and track events were rarely missed while her kids were growing up. Marlene was an advocate for the elderly serving as an Ombudsman to the local nursing homes. Relay for Life was another cause dear to her heart. Her family came each year honoring both she and Arlan as long time cancer survivors.

Marlene was a devout Christian and loved the Lord with all of her heart. She started Bible studies in her Yuma Park and treasured the fellowship of the ladies involved. They found the answered prayers and the wisdom God showed through His word so rewarding.

Marlene is survived by her beloved husband, Arlan Larsen; children, K. Michael (Karen) Palmquist of West Seattle, Tim Palmquist of Grand Junction, CO and Jill Palmquist of Ephrata; sister Judy (Pat) Molitor of Moses Lake; three granddaughters and nine great grandchildren, Michele Sharpes (Greg) and children Anna, Sean and Ryan of Clarkston, WA, Christine Melby (Matt) and children Erika, Nicole and Ali of Snoqualmie, WA, Melissa Hoey (Jonathan) and children Braden, Adi and Taylor of San Antonio, TX; three step-children, Laura Larsen of Weiser, ID, Bruce Larsen (Renee) of Arlington, WA and Neal Larsen of Bonnie Lake, WA and many loving nieces and nephews. Marlene was preceded in death by her husband, Ken Palmquist, parents Louis and Margaret Lilleby, brother Raynor Lilleby, sister-in-law Kathy Lilleby and a great grandson, Isaac Sharpes.

Viewing will be at the Nicoles Funeral Home in Ephrata on Thursday July 9, 2015 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Rosary will be held 7:00 p.m. Thursday July 9, 2015 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church 323 D Street SW Ephrata. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church 323 D Street SW Ephrata on Friday July 10, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. with gravesite service at the Ephrata Catholic Cemetery. Reception to follow in church basement. Father Seamus Kerr with the assistance of Father Miguel

Gonzalez will be presiding. Arrangements are by Nicoles Funeral Home and St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.

The family wishes to share their heartfelt thankfulness to the (earthly angels) of Hospice and the St. Rose of Lima Family that extended their time and genuine caring for Mom during these last few months.

Memorial contributions may be given to St. Rose of Lima Catholic School scholarship fund, Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) or the charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Ephrata Catholic Cemetery

333 E St. SW
Ephrata, WA 98823

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 9. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

Nicoles Funeral Home
157 C St. N.W.
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-3420
bea.white@nicolesfuneralhome.com

Rosary

JUL 9. 7:00 PM (PT)

St. Rose of Lima
323 D St. SW
Ephrata, WA 98823

Mass of Christian Burial

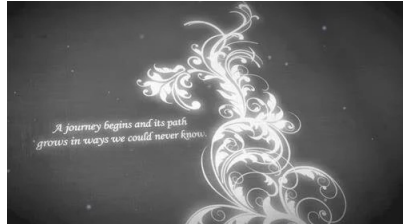
JUL 10. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Rose of Lima
323 D St. SW
Ephrata, WA 98823

Tribute Wall



“ *Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park created a Tribute Video in memory of Marlene R Palmquist-Larsen*



Nicoles Funeral Home and Valley View Memorial Park - July 06, 2015 at 06:06 PM

JP

Wow ... what an honor this woman as my mom!

Jill Palmquist - July 06, 2015 at 10:25 PM

LH

What a beautiful journey on earth for your sweet mama, Jill. May you find joy among your sorrow, dear friend. Linda Hutchins

Linda Hutchins - July 07, 2015 at 05:23 AM

CH

Beautiful video! It reminds me of all the good times we've had over the years. I'm going miss you so much Grandma! Hardest goodbye I've ever had to say but so glad I got to see you one more time before you took your journey to heaven! I love you

Christina - July 07, 2015 at 12:04 PM

SA

Through the tears, a smile from ear to ear

Stephanie Abramson - July 07, 2015 at 02:34 PM

JO

A wonderful tribute to a beautiful lady! My deepest sympathy to the Palmquist-Larsen families. I first knew Marlene when they had the paint store and watched Jill grow up. Marlene was always so kind and had a beautiful smile for everyone.

Judy O'Brien - July 07, 2015 at 10:09 PM

KA

Marlene always treated me like I was special. She treated everyone like that. She is irreplaceable.

Kathleen - July 08, 2015 at 04:23 PM

CU

Thank you for sharing these beautiful photos of Marlene and so many family members and friends. Her lovely smile was present in every one. She was well-loved and loved well. Our comfort can be in knowing she is with Jesus and we can see her again.

Christine Ulberg - July 08, 2015 at 05:12 PM

LS

...her eyes sparkle and her smile gleams in every picture! My sweet, sweet friend. Truly home Marlene, truly home!

Lynn Stecker - July 08, 2015 at 09:04 PM

MS

What a lovely video. All the people who she touched at Saguaro estates in Yuma will remember her as our rock. She guided us in our everyday lives, was a shoulder to lean on in trying times, she led our Bible studies every year, and most importantly, she showed us how to live a good life, and endure an ugly disease with dignity. God smiled when He welcomed her home. Monica and Terry Swank

Monica & Terry Swank - July 08, 2015 at 10:15 PM

MP

Beautiful tribute.

Marian Menzia Pedersen - July 10, 2015 at 03:42 PM

RO

Beautiful, just like she was. Roselee

Roselee - July 11, 2015 at 10:15 PM

RL

Our thoughts and prayers for all of Marlenes family, we will always have loving thoughts of her, and truly miss her.

Robert and jean larsen - July 16, 2015 at 12:07 PM

JA

I have never met Marlene but her daughter Jill was the best thing to ever happen to me in sixth grade one of the worst years of my now 28yr old life the only smiles I would find that year was in her class. Thank you Marlene Palmquist-Larson. For having such a wonderful daughter and to the family I'm so sorry for your loss.

Jaime - July 28, 2015 at 09:20 PM

CL

“ *Marlene was a beautiful, gracious, woman. Her generous, kind spirit still lifts us all.*

Cora Lee - July 25, 2015 at 09:16 AM

CL

“ *Cora Lee lit a candle in memory of Marlene R Palmquist-Larsen*



Cora Lee - July 25, 2015 at 08:55 AM

VH

“ Vickie Heath lit a candle in memory of
Marlene R Palmquist-Larsen



Vickie Heath - July 13, 2015 at 05:30 PM

MJ

“ Our sympathy to Arlan and family. Our
prayers for you. Bob & Marilyn
Johnson, Minnesota



Marilyn Johnson - July 10, 2015 at 11:10 PM

LG

“ Mike, Jill, Tim and Family,
I am so sorry for your loss, Marlene and Mom
were such good friends, Marlene and Kenny,
Mom and John spent lots of good times
together in Yuma, and Ephrata. She will be
missed. Love and prayers to all of you and your families.



Lesley Lamb-Gunderson

Lesley Gunderson - July 10, 2015 at 10:18 PM

FT

“ *Fran Tracy lit a candle in memory of Marlene R Palmquist-Larsen*



Fran Tracy - July 10, 2015 at 06:17 PM

KM

“ *Marlene was beauty in the truest sense ... inside and out. We will love and miss you but know we will meet again.*

Kerry Moser - July 10, 2015 at 10:02 AM

JF

“ *Marlene was one grand lady who graced the life of every person she met. My husband Ron and I were winter neighbors with Marlene and Arlan here in Saguaro Mobile Estates. She was a wonderful hostess in the many gatherings she hosted over the years. She was very active in all kinds of park activities and recall one all park wide patio sale we co-chaired.\; lots of work but with many helpers we raised some money for the park. Marlene had such a strong faith in our Lord and we all know she is now at peace after her valiant effort to defeat cancer. I will miss her so much. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Arlan and the children.*

God Bless you dear friend.

Love and hugs,

Joan Frenzel

Joan Frenzel - July 09, 2015 at 08:56 PM

LS

“ Has been pure JOY having Marlene as a special friend. I was proud when she would introduce me to me others as her other daughter. I truly was blessed to have her in my life as another mother after my mom passed almost 14 years ago. Reading Jesus Calling with her these past few months was so special. One reading had to do with JOY... loving and serving first Jesus, then others and then yourself. I remarked to her how that was the way she lived! Last week when I spent some time with her, she so loving remarked, "sometimes Lynn, I just don't want you to go"... I love you forever Marlene. See you soon. Luv Lynn

Lynn Stecker - July 08, 2015 at 08:50 PM

KA

“ Marlene always treated me like I was special. She treated everyone like that. She is irreplaceable.

Kathleen - July 08, 2015 at 04:48 PM

BW

“ Marlene sold us our first home in Yuma & her & Arlan were good friends. She will be missed very much Del & Bev Wulf

Bev Wulf - July 08, 2015 at 03:43 PM

TW

“ My mom and Marlene graduated from high school together. She was one of the sweetest and loving people I've ever met. She loved my Mom so much. I was so happy I got to spend time with her when she came to my Dad's services when he passed. She was there for my Mom. Mom, her and Betty were buddies for many years.



Terri Weeks - July 07, 2015 at 09:21 PM



“ I grew up hearing stories about Marlene and am still hearing them. She was my Mom's best friend since grade school and it was like she was part of our family. I only got to be around her a few times, but you didn't have to be around her much to know what a lovely, sweet, caring, FUN lady she was. She will be missed by everyone who knew her. What an amazing person! RIP Marlene.. we love you!

Renee Adcock - July 07, 2015 at 05:50 PM



“ Marian Menzia Pedersen lit a candle in memory of Marlene R Palmquist-Larsen



Marian Menzia Pedersen - July 07, 2015 at 03:53 PM



“ Marlene was my Rock as a teenager. She borrowed her Mom's new car and asked me to go for a ride. We left town, following boys if I remember, turned a corner, missed it and went in the ditch (can't remember how she got out of that one). Never a dull moment with Marlene, she was kind to everyone and the best friend in the world. So sorry for her family's loss.



Frankie Harvey - July 07, 2015 at 03:35 PM

RM

“ *Marlene welcomed our family into her home when they visited Arlan. We always enjoyed talking to her when we spoke with Arlan and her Christmas letters and photos will always be cherished. It takes a special woman to pray for and care for others like they were biological family and Marlene did just that. We will always be grateful that she and Arlan found each other. May God bless and keep you Marlene. Rest in peace.*

Rex and Kimberly Martin - July 07, 2015 at 08:26 AM

SR

“ *What a beautiful tribute to your sweet momma. She always had a kind word and a smile to share when ever we saw her. I am so sorry for your loss and know that she will be missed so much. What a Godly lady, love to you all. Sheryl Raddas*

Sheryl Raddas - July 07, 2015 at 08:22 AM